

9-25-1853

Gilmore, Eliza OH (Mother), 9/25/1853

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enough in the summer - when we were in the country. I thought it was not much chance of his making any more of a party. But the more I see of the more I like him. I feel sure he can command an army better than his wife. She clings to the neck of every dog and cat, and is always in the kitchen. I have been visiting between writing to you I and to Charles. or whether to write to you or to him first. But I think if I write just I can make out to write to both tonight. Bowdoin & Lizzy have been here & gone. I am afraid their visit was pleasant to me than to them. When Capt Brewster was Superintendent we used to be excused from duty at least two days to see one of our parents or brothers but now they give us but one day. But never mind, I have the responsibility of churching the greater part of two days with Lizzy & Rowland. I shall say soon as then again when I write be a little better able to do as I please. Rowland will most probably have left you for Brunswick before the reception of this. You must tell me how his journey affected him, & if he left for B. in good health & spirits. What he said to say about his visit here &c. &c. I thought him looking quite well. He seemed a little sorer withal, which made me feel that I could not render his visit so pleasant as I wished to. I am very anxious to hear from him & from Lizzy. and presume I shall the first of the week. as Lizzy promised to write me as soon as she reached home. I am sorry to say that I have not been doing so well in my studies this year as formerly

and I feel rather badly about it, for our studies now are of the utmost practical importance. Particularly Civil Engineering. There is too much drawing connected with this study. It is too great a tax upon my talent for this branch of art to be obliged to expence by a drawing every idea I may have on any subject. I rather think if this is to be the way my ideas are to be tested I will not be likely to have a great many. However, in this as in all things else I will work on. ^{From} ~~The~~ civil engineering I find that

I have not used my eyes sufficiently hitherto. This study is doing me good. I began to notice ~~buildings~~ buildings, structures of all kinds within the limited scope that I can survey. Their component parts and how they are put together. We learn in the first place all about the materials. Their composition their strength &c, of which structures are made, then we learn how to put them together. Being able ~~to~~ in all cases to give the mechanical reason for every form, link or joint. We are set up to the board to make drawings of bridges in plan, elevation & perspective - as well as wharves, anchors &c. &c. We have little framed models of the same to examine & describe in detail. Prof. Mahan our instructor in this branch, deals largely in "Common Sense" He expects a young man to read over a long lesson - description of a dozen different structures and be able to tell by a drawing or on the floor every thing in detail so clearly that a workman could follow out ~~your~~ his description & make the construction. This is practical &

I know I will improve, though as I said it is hard for me to do it. Perhaps Rowland has told you that Mrs General Scott was at the hotel when he was here and that he was introduced to her. The General himself is here now. Trying the effect of electricity on his arm. I fear it will never again be well. His left arm is almost useless from wounds that he has received. He cannot raise it to his head. Now then that his right arm is so lame that he can scarcely move it he is rather badly off. Mrs Scott made a party for her friends & acquaintances amongst Cadets. which took place last night at the Hotel. She invited me & I had to go tho. I did not feel like it at all. She looked better & younger than I ever saw her before last night. She was dressed plainly without any ornaments except a circlet of pearls ~~not~~ embracing her hair. She gave me her hand & called me by name & talked with me some time when I first came in, which I must flatter my vanity - showing as it did that I was of consequence enough to be remembered by Mrs General Scott. The lady who refused the hand of Mr Scott - again of Clint Scott, but finally accepted Ed Scott. who is now General Scott. She afterwards introduced me to some fine young ladies. She indicated that I had not eaten any Oysters. Now you perceive I don't eat Stewed Oysters but I thought I would not explain my peculiar tastes to Mrs Scott - so I went off to the table. eat a piece of cake looked at the Oysters. Thought they might be good to those who had a taste for them I went away. I first was not in any

good spirits. But a young man came to me and asked if I would not like to dance with him (i.e. take a lady and dance opposite to him as in the French fairs) in a Grandville I told him I would. He soon appeared on the floor with Miss Kate Thompson - one of the old maids with whom I used to board. She must be 50 or near it. She was about like a girl of sixteen in a beautiful silk dress - low in the neck and coming to his heels (before & behind) at the waist. She had on beautiful satin slippers which occasionally tripped forth from beneath the folds of her rich dress. Now you see she looked very young & beautiful from her feet to her neck. But her face with its age wrinkles were monstrously out of place, as Dr. J. Mahan, M.D. says. "Effectually marred the architectural effect". Now young people are "mighty apt" to listen upon such witnessing such ludicrous combinations - but I was good for it and the young lady who danced with me & those near by pattern after my seriousness. Truly there was an endorsement of years in me which dispelled all my discontent. The next Grandville I danced with her as a partner. She took me up & introduced me to General Scott who made his appearance about that time. Tell me who is a good sized man about as large as father, looked like a boy in stature by the side of the General. Ah that a powerful man he must have been in his prime. He was dressed in uniform last night. Looked splendidly, towering as he did above every body about him. He had to bend down to hear my reply when he asked what state I was from. He said he supposed I had no objections to seeing those young ladies dancing with them. He thought it absurd.